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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

2 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Assistant Director for Operations

SUBJECT : Evaluation of FBIS Saigon Operation

REFERENCE : Your memorandum, 28 March 1956

1. We have reviewed the actual use by ORR of the services of the Saigon Bureau. While we cannot assess the value of these services in terms of dollars, the following comments may help provide a basis for an objective appraisal of the operation.

2. An ORR contribution to a National Intelligence Estimate, using the Saigon Bureau's monitoring service as background, is now in course of preparation. While the service of the Saigon Bureau is not as comprehensive or valuable as it used to be, ORR branches feel that continuation of the service is desirable until alternative means of covering the Saigon Bureau's sources can be improved.

3. At the same time ORR has an obligation to support OCI on matters concerning the economies of all areas under Communist domination. The Current Support Staff, ORR feels that the services of the Saigon Bureau are essential to its capability to support OCI's current intelligence program.

4. In the field of geographic research the services of the Saigon Bureau are extremely valuable. A recent survey of all Washington mapping agencies indicated that the only available information in Washington on internal administrative divisions of North Vietnam had been obtained from the Saigon Bureau. Information on DRV progress on roads and railways, census figures, and peoples is also valuable. In addition to North Vietnam, the Saigon Bureau is one of the best sources of information on Laos and the Pathet Laos.

OTTO E. GUTHE
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

Evaluation A. 10.

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